

tain and to Antietam and find out what ravages the traitorous horde, who are the exponents of his views, have done? No; the gentleman stopped on the Rapidan—and well he might, for traitors have been holding high carnival in that region of late; men who advocate the very same doctrine that is advocated here, the right of a State to break up this Union and enter into a magnificent rebellion, accompanied by bloodshed and death.

The gentleman also refers, in the most pathetic language, to the defenceless women occasioned by this war. Sir, I have as much reverence for the character of women as any man, and I would go as far to protect and defend them. But does not the gentleman know that the most bitter, vindictive foes to this government are the secesh women? Does he not know that shielding themselves behind their feminine helplessness, they have taken advantage of the respect and esteem, and even devotion which every well-bred American entertains for their character, and oftentimes under the garb of friendship have obtained information, more than once, that has been used against our country? And yet the government has abused the poor women! Why, sir, women have become spies in this war, have been caught within our lines with maps and plans of our fortifications, and the numbers and dispositions of our troops, upon their persons. They have been arrested for carrying rebel mails, (not males,) and yet this kind, humane, long suffering government has merely arrested them and confined them to keep them out of harm's way, instead of being committed to the doom which every woman as well as every man deserves when caught in the act of treason. No, sir, war is no place for woman. Her duty is at home, around the domestic circle, to purify the heart, to cheer and comfort it. Her duty in days like these is in the hospital, beside the couch of the wounded, ministering like an angel to the comfort of the soldier, and smoothing his pillow for a peaceful rest and an easy death. Let woman

"Seek to be good, but aim not to be great,
 "A woman's noblest station is retreat;
 "Her fairest virtues fly from public sight.
 "Domestic worth—that shuns too strong a light."

The gentleman has also referred, in no unambiguous language, to President Lincoln; and has characterized his acts as oppressive and tyrannical; and said that the people of Maryland were now groaning under a system of petty despotisms on the part of irresponsible officers, vested with a little brief authority. Sir, I do not propose to be the apologist, nor the eulogist, of Abraham Lincoln. Elected by a majority of the people of the United States, he took the helm of State at a time when our good old ship was in the hands of a band of pirates, who had stripped her of everything that was valuable, and had taken away from

her all her weapons of defence. The ship itself had been traitorously delivered up to their keeping, and not long would it have been before it reached that vortex of destruction that would have swallowed up and forever buried in the deep waters of oblivion this mighty people. But Abraham Lincoln seized hold of the helm, with a determined will, and an honest purpose, to rescue the Constitution and the country from the impending danger, regardless of what the consequence might be to himself. His life was threatened, and conspiracies were even formed to murder him in cold-blood, and it is too fresh upon the minds of Marylanders, at least, how he escaped from the toils of his would-be assassins. His treasury had been robbed, his army scattered, his navy sent to the uttermost parts of the earth, his munitions of war distributed to such of the traitors as would join in the unholy league; and, in fact, he found himself put in possession of a Government by name, and almost without any of its attributes, save the love, the might and the loyalty of the people, and the resources of the land.

For three, nearly four, years has civil war been raging. Almost one million of men have poured out their life's blood like water, to defend and uphold this Government. The spots that mark their resting places, can be counted from the Potomac to the Gulf: and still the war rages! Is Abraham Lincoln responsible for it? Are not the men who advocate the same doctrine as the gentleman from Prince George's, amenable to the vengeance of God and the laws of man for all this sacrifice of life—this out-pouring of the blood of the nation, this expenditure of treasure, this desolation of once happy States? There have been arrests, but not half enough; traitors have been caught, but not punished as they deserved to be. The *habeas corpus* has been suspended; and should have never had an existence, when applied to screen a traitor from his just doom. The Government has not been harsh enough; it has dealt, and is dealing, too lightly with those who have taken up arms to destroy it and us. Sympathy and a God-speed the rebel cause can even be expressed by members of this House, and yet no notice is taken of it. No wonder the gentleman said we had been living as though we had no government, for the reason that we never felt any of its rigor, but had always partaken of its beneficent protection and bounty. We are partaking of that protection and that bounty now. Maryland is this day the Paradise of the border slave States. Why? Not because traitors would have her so; not because sympathy with traitors would wish it so. But because the strong arm of the Government has been and is now exerted to defend us from the assaults of traitors outside of the State, and treason that skulks and works in the dark, because it dare not show its head inside of the State. Gentlemen can